

Select **one** of the following questions and write a thematic essay addressing the topic. You should spend approximately 5 minutes planning this essay and no more than 30 minutes writing it.

1. Louis XIV declared his goal was “one king, one law, one faith.” Analyze the methods the king used to achieve this objective and discuss the extent to which he was successful.
2. Machiavelli suggested that a ruler should be both “like a lion” and “like a fox.” Analyze the policies of TWO of the following European rulers, indicating the degree to which they followed Machiavelli’s suggestion.

Chose two: Elizabeth I of England
Henry IV of France
Louis XIV of France
Peter the Great of Russia
Frederick II of Prussia

3. Analyze the major ways in which Tsar Peter the Great (1689-1725) sought to reform his society and its institutions in order to strengthen Russia and its position in Europe.
4. Explain why the status of peasants after 1300 increased in western Europe and decreased in eastern Europe.

Your essay should follow the correct format as illustrated below:

Introduction: This should include historical background and a clear thesis statement that addresses the question. You should have three main points – bing, bang, and bong.

Body paragraphs: There should be three and each should begin with a topic sentence that clearly addresses the thesis statement. The rest of the paragraph should provide details and explanations that clarify and support the topic sentence.

Conclusion: This should be a brief paragraph that summarizes the content of the essay and refers back to the thesis statement.